



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

February 4, 2008

Mr. William Maxwell  
Associate Professor  
Department Of English  
University of Illinois  
608 South Wright Street  
Urbana, IL 61801

Request No.: 1108418-000  
Subject: DUNHAM, KATHERINE  
144-1463

Dear Requester:

The records that you have requested were previously processed under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act for another requester.

Enclosed are 229 pages of documents pertaining to your request and a copy of the explanation of exemptions.

You may submit an appeal from any denial contained herein by writing to the Office of Information and Privacy, U.S. Department of Justice, 1425 New York Ave., NW, Suite 11050, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001, within sixty days from the date of this letter. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

Sincerely yours,

David M. Hardy  
Section Chief,  
Record/Information  
Dissemination Section  
Records Management Division

Enclosure(s)

*I just saw the travel  
bag in the  
box today  
in the  
mail.*

## **EXPLANATION OF EXEMPTIONS**

### **SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552**

- (b)(1) (A) specifically authorized under criteria established by an Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy and (B) are in fact properly classified to such Executive order;
- (b)(2) related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency;
- (b)(3) specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than section 552b of this title), provided that such statute(A) requires that the matters be withheld from the public in such a manner as to leave no discretion on issue, or (B) establishes particular criteria for withholding or refers to particular types of matters to be withheld;
- (b)(4) trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person and privileged or confidential;
- (b)(5) inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would not be available by law to a party other than an agency in litigation with the agency;
- (b)(6) personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy;
- (b)(7) records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, but only to the extent that the production of such law enforcement records or information ( A ) could be reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, ( B ) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, ( C ) could be reasonably expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, ( D ) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of confidential source, including a State, local, or foreign agency or authority or any private institution which furnished information on a confidential basis, and, in the case of record or information compiled by a criminal law enforcement authority in the course of a criminal investigation, or by an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence investigation, information furnished by a confidential source, ( E ) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law, or ( F ) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual;
- (b)(8) contained in or related to examination, operating, or condition reports prepared by, on behalf of, or for the use of an agency responsible for the regulation or supervision of financial institutions; or
- (b)(9) geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells.

### **SUBSECTIONS OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, SECTION 552a**

- (d)(5) information compiled in reasonable anticipation of a civil action proceeding;
- (j)(2) material reporting investigative efforts pertaining to the enforcement of criminal law including efforts to prevent, control, or reduce crime or apprehend criminals;
- (k)(1) information which is currently and properly classified pursuant to an Executive order in the interest of the national defense or foreign policy, for example, information involving intelligence sources or methods;
- (k)(2) investigatory material compiled for law enforcement purposes, other than criminal, which did not result in loss of a right, benefit or privilege under Federal programs, or which would identify a source who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(3) material maintained in connection with providing protective services to the President of the United States or any other individual pursuant to the authority of Title 18, United States Code, Section 3056;
- (k)(4) required by statute to be maintained and used solely as statistical records;
- (k)(5) investigatory material compiled solely for the purpose of determining suitability, eligibility, or qualifications for Federal civilian employment or for access to classified information, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished information pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence;
- (k)(6) testing or examination material used to determine individual qualifications for appointment or promotion in Federal Government service the release of which would compromise the testing or examination process;
- (k)(7) material used to determine potential for promotion in the armed services, the disclosure of which would reveal the identity of the person who furnished the material pursuant to a promise that his/her identity would be held in confidence.

100-

HQ-334795

Sec. 1

Serials 1---



U. S. Department of Justice

MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE

FEDERAL BUREAU

of  
INVESTIGATION

DO NOT  
DESTROY

FOIPA# 10073007

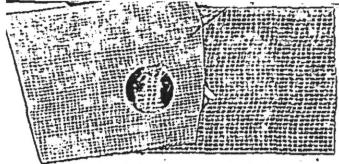
USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

Transfer-Call



b6  
b7C

JM



... Rose to J. E. H. Their for 11.

Hello [redacted]

You'd be gee-whizzed at the after-hour orgies that take place thrice weekly at one of the town's most famous interpretive dance studios.

out (KATHERIN DUNHAM...)  
ab. 4/13/48  
new

Katherine Dunham

Re  
1 - Rec

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1/13/00 BY SP/Reg/HG

RECORDED 14 100-334795-2  
31 APR 13 1948

EX-47

52 APR 21 1948

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

March 18, 1953

KATHERINE DUNHAM PRATT  
Aka Katherine Dunham  
Born: June 22, 1912  
Chicago, Illinois

In connection with your inquiry there is attached one copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] San Antonio, Texas, dated October 23, 1944, which was submitted in connection with the case entitled "Katherine Dunham PRATT Security Matter - C; Foreign Travel Control." (100-334795)

For your further information the files of this Bureau contain the following pertinent data concerning this individual.

Abraham Lincoln School  
(Chicago Workers School)

b6  
b7C

A confidential and reliable informant advised in May, 1944, that [redacted] member of the Board of Directors of the Abraham Lincoln School (Chicago Labor School) stated that school officials wanted to do something for Katherine Dunham of "Tropical Review" and that they are thinking of having a cocktail party for her under the auspices of the Abraham Lincoln School. She stated that [redacted] of the International Workers Order was in favor of such an affair. (100-11507-264, page 10)

The Abraham Lincoln School and the International Workers Order were both cited by the Attorney General as organizations within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

Attachment

Original to State Department  
Request received 1-29-53

Tolson  
Ladd  
Nichols  
Belmont  
Clegg  
Glavin  
Harbo  
Rosen  
Tracy  
Laughlin  
Mohr  
Winterrowd  
Tele. Rm.  
Holloman  
Gandy

[redacted] b6a

100-334795 DECLASSIFIED BY [redacted]

1/13/90

RECORDED 16  
INDEXED 16  
EX-106

100-334795-3  
MAR 20 1953  
13  
P/KS

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

American Russian Institute of  
San Francisco, California

A confidential informant of known reliability advised in the spring of 1944, that the Russian Consulate of San Francisco, California, was attending to the invitations for the reception to be held under the auspices of the American Russian Institute at San Francisco, California, in honor of Katherine Dunham the prominent dancer.

(100-370903-9, page 4)

The American Russian Institute of San Francisco, California has been declared by the Attorney General to be within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

American Youth for Democracy

It was reliably reported that on February 15, 1945, the Four Freedoms Club of the American Youth for Democracy held a meeting at the Civic Center, 114 Erskine Street, Detroit, Michigan, and that the meeting was adjourned early so that the members could join in with the National Negro Congress party given for Katherine Dunham star of the "Tropical Review" which was going on in the same building.

(61-777-15-251, pg. 9)

The American Youth for Democracy and the National Negro Congress were both cited by the Attorney General as organizations within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

The Communist Party

The "Worker" New York City, issue of October 10, 1943, contained an article captioned "Ben Davis Candidacy Aroused National Interest." This article set forth information concerning the efforts which were being made to elect Benjamin J. Davis, Jr., a Communist Party candidate for the position of City Councilman for Manhattan. The article set forth that Katherine Dunham was one of the individuals backing the candidacy of Benjamin J. Davis, Jr.

(100-149163-A)

b6  
b7C

The Committee on Un-American Activities, U.S. House of Representatives, 80th Congress, First Session, issued a booklet captioned "Report on Civil Rights Congress" dated February 15, 1947. On page 25 and 26 of this booklet an article is quoted from the "Daily Worker" issue of October 7, 1946, which sets forth that on the eve of the reopening of the court suit to bar the Communist Party from the New York State ballot, that certain leaders condemned the drive against minority party electoral rights as an assault on the American principle of free elections. The article reflects that a declaration was issued by the Civil Rights Congress of New York, defending the right of the Communist Party to appear on the ballot. One of the signers of the declaration according to the article was Katherine Dunham, dancer.

(61-10149-540)

Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee

536

A confidential informant of known reliability advised in March, 1944, that Katherine Dunham had agreed to have her troupe perform for the benefit of the San Francisco Branch of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee.

A confidential informant who is believed to be reliable advised in June, 1944, that a Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee party was to be held in Chicago, Illinois, at the home of [redacted] and that Katherine Dunham was to be the guest of honor. (100-370903-9)

The "Daily Worker" New York City issue of November 25, 1948, contains an article captioned "Marcantonio to Speak at Free Spain Rally, December 6." The article set forth that Congressman Vito Marcantonio would address the Liberation Rally for Spain to be held in New York City on December 6, 1948, under the auspices of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee. The article set forth that the Katherine Dunham dancers would entertain. (100-28126-A)

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ladd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Nichols \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Clegg \_\_\_\_\_  
 Glavin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Harbo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tracy \_\_\_\_\_  
 Laughlin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Winterrowd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Rm. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Holloman \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

The Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee was cited by the Attorney General as an organization within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

National Council of American Soviet Friendship, Incorporated

A confidential and reliable informant in October, 1945, advised that Katherine Dunham was one of the Vice-Chairmen of the New York Branch of the National Council of American Soviet Friendship, Incorporated.

(100-326-34-36, page 9)

The National Council of American Soviet Friendship, Incorporated, was cited by the Attorney General as an organization within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

Peoples Educational Center

There was made available to a representative of this Bureau a copy of the "Sounding Board" publication of the Student Council of the Peoples Educational Center, Los Angeles, California, issue of July, 1944. An article in this publication stated that Katherine Dunham was teaching Master Classes in Primitive Rhythm at Dave Kings Studio, 1105 North Serrano in Los Angeles, California.

(100-217118-12, page 58)

The Peoples Educational Center was cited by the Attorney General as an organization within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

Philadelphia School of Social Science

A confidential and reliable informant advised that the Philadelphia School of Social Science on December 16, 1944, gave a reception in honor of Katherine Dunham the dancer. Informant advised at that time Dunham gave a scholarship to the school to be awarded to a promising Negro student of the dance.

(100-154799-38; 61-777-37-11, page 23)

~~SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL~~

The Philadelphia School of Social Science was cited by the Attorney General as an organization within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

Contact With Soviet Consul, New York City

A confidential and reliable informant advised that on November 16, 1946, Katherine Dunham, the well-known dancer made an appointment to see the Consul General of the Soviet Consulate in New York City. (100-829-916, page 27 & 28)

Southern Conference for Human Welfare

The "Worker" issue of August 25, 1946, contains an article captioned "Artists Sponsor Campaign for South." The article set forth that a group of artists have joined the Sponsoring Committee of the "Lend a Hand to Dixie Land" to raise a hundred thousand dollars for educational and legislative work in the south, which was being handled under the auspices of the New York City Committee of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. The article listed Katherine Dunham as one of the sponsors. (100-10355-A)

The Southern Conference for Human Welfare was cited as a Communist front organization by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities in its Report dated March 29, 1944.

The Worker's Party

A confidential informant of known reliability advised that on November 12, 1944, at a regular meeting of the Branch Executive Committee of the Worker's Party, Detroit, Michigan, it was decided to hold a theatre party and approximately \$18 was appropriated from the treasury for the purpose of purchasing a block of tickets for a dance recital to be given by Katherine Dunham at the Cass Theatre in Detroit, Michigan. (100-86590-15-26, page 7)

The Worker's Party was cited by the Attorney General as an organization within the purview of Executive Order 9835.

SECURITY INFORMATION - CONFIDENTIAL

No investigation has been conducted by the FBI concerning Katherine Dunham.

The above information is furnished for your confidential use only and is not to be distributed outside of your agency. This is the result of an FBI file check only and is not to be considered as a clearance or non-clearance of the individual involved.

b6  
b7COFFICE OF DIRECTOR  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

April 8, 1948

The attached was forwarded to the Director by Walter Winchell. The notations thereon read:

"Rose to J.E.H. Then for  
L.L." and "Hello [redacted]  
[redacted]

Mr. Tolson   
Mr. E. A. Tamm   
Mr. Clegg   
Mr. Glavin   
Mr. Ladd   
Mr. Nichols   
Mr. Rosen   
Mr. Tracy   
Mr. Egan

Mr. Harbo   
Mr. Jones   
Mr. Mohr   
Mr. Pennington   
Tele. Room   
Mr. Nease   
Miss Holmes   
Miss Gandy

WAC [initials]  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Tracy

Attachment  
mt

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/13/00 BY SP4/leg/ktcg

2106

May 22, 1953

KATHERINE DUNHAM AKA PRATT  
Born: June 22, 1912  
Chicago, Illinois

U-3-1  
b6  
b7C

This information is being furnished as a result of your request for an FBI file check only and is not to be considered as a clearance or non-clearance of the individual involved.

A search of the records of this Bureau failed to locate any data pertinent to your inquiry other than that which is set forth below.

For information concerning the subject of your inquiry, you are referred to the files of the following agencies:

Memorandum dated March 18, 1953, captioned "Katherine Dunham Pratt, aka, Katherine Dunham."

100-334795-3

Orig. to State

Reason given: Educational Exchange Service.

br.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1/13/01 BY SP-4/SP-5/01

6.1.R.3

RECORDED - 7-

100 334795-4

23 MAY

1953

4C9  
LVAIS

53 JUN 4 1953

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Congress party given for Katherine Dunham, star of the "Tropical Revue" which was going on in the same building.

(61-777-15-251 p. 9)

The American Youth for Democracy and the National Negro Congress have been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

A confidential source who has furnished reliable information in the past, in October, 1945, advised that Katherine Dunham was one of the Vice-Chairmen of the New York Branch of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Incorporated.

(100-326-34-36- p. 9)

The National Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Incorporated, has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

A confidential source who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that on November 16, 1946, Katherine Dunham, the well-known dancer, made an appointment to see the Consul General of the Soviet Consulate in New York City.

(100-829-916 R. 27 & 28)

The "Worker," the Sunday edition of the "Daily Worker" an east coast Communist newspaper, in the August 25, 1946, issue contained an article captioned "Artists Sponsor Campaign for South." The article set forth that a group of artists have joined the Sponsoring Committee of the "Lend A Hand to Dixie Land" to raise a hundred thousand dollars for educational and legislative work in the South, which was being handled under the auspices of the New York City Committee of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare. The article listed Katherine Dunham as one of the sponsors.

(100-10355-A)

The Southern Conference for Human Welfare was cited as a Communist front by the Special Committee on Un-American Activities in its report dated March 29, 1944, page 117.

(100-334795-3)

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past stated that an article appearing in the "Excelsior Daily," a Spanish-speaking newspaper, dated

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MAILED

DEC 20 1955

NAME CHECK

December 19, 1955

KATHERINE DUNHAM SUMMARY

Born: June 22, 1910  
Chicago, Illinois

b6  
b7C

In connection with your inquiry there is attached one copy of the report of Special Agent [redacted] San Antonio, Texas, dated October 23, 1944, which was submitted in connection with the case entitled "Katherine Dunham; Security Matter - C; Foreign Travel Control." There are also enclosed two reports of an investigation conducted by the FBI concerning [redacted] which contain considerable information concerning Katherine Dunham who may be identical with the subject of your present inquiry.

(100-334795-138-1637-6/7)

For your further information the files of this Bureau contain the following additional information.

A confidential informant who has furnished reliable information in the past advised that on November 12, 1944, at a regular meeting of the Branch Executive Committee of the Workers Party, Detroit, Michigan, it was decided to hold a theatre party, and approximately \$18 was appropriated from the treasury for the purpose of purchasing a block of tickets for a dance recital to be given by Katherine Dunham at the Cass Theatre in Detroit, Michigan.

(100-86590-15-26 p. 7)

The Workers Party has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

A confidential source who has furnished reliable information in the past reported that on February 15, 1945, the Four Freedoms Club of the American Youth for Democracy held a meeting at the Civic Center, 114 Erskine Street, Detroit, Michigan, and that the meeting was adjourned early so that the members could join in with the National Negro

RECORDED - 19

INDEXED - 19 100-334795-5  
NOTE: Summary of information on subject sent State 3-18-53. (100-334795). Complete summary sent State, not sent USIA inasmuch as most of the information contained in 138-1637-6.

Enclosures (3)  
Orig. and one to USIA  
Req rec'd: 11-25-55

[redacted] :tar

(4) 100-334795

EX - 130

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

52 DEC 28 1955

✓ 100-334795-5

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

February 5, 1953, contained information that [redacted] renowned writer and Communist, was then residing in Cuernavaca, Mexico. According to the informant, [redacted] was stated in the article to have been expelled from the United States in August, 1951, because of his Communist activities; that he came to Cuernavaca, from the State of Morelos, Mexico, where he united with [redacted] Katherine Dunham, Aaron Copeland, pianist and composer, and [redacted] The article stated that this group had created quite a stir in that city and that last year they sang in loud voice the Communist International.

(64-200-221-1348) Source - [redacted]  
You may also wish to consult the files of the Civil Service Commission, their number (2).24.53.1694, and the records of the House Committee on Un-American Activities for possible further information concerning the captioned individual (100-334795)

The foregoing information is furnished to you as a result of your request for an FBI file check and is not to be construed as a clearance or a non-clearance of the individual involved. This information is furnished for your use and should not be disseminated outside of your agency.

2  
NUMEROUS REFERENCE

4-22a

SEARCH SLIP

b6  
b7C

Subj: Dunham, Katherine

Supervisor 100 Room 100  
R# 93 Date 11-26-53 Searcher DEC Initials 1955206

FILE NUMBER 100 SERIAL 100

Not from Sun 11-18-53

100-334795

100-334795-33-18-53

100-200-221-1349 p. 7

100-39761-6

SI 138-2065-3 R108

100-61238-25

SI 138-14-122 R108

100-1637-1 R108

100-340912-A N.Y. news 5-7-53

SI 121-19541-36

100-63240-64 E.P. 4

Katherine Dunham (Vas)

100-7558-596-E.p. 301

100-170681-4

100-17139-42

Katherine

100-20604-17

100-135 sub. 47-22

SI 100-3 sub. 23-458

100-49213-129 p. 11

SI 100-325498-6

NUMEROUS REFERENCES

4-22a

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Katherine Dunham

Supervisor

Room

# 93 Date 11-30

Searcher

Initials S-906

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

Catherine

P-42

~~61-7582-278 p. 106 INC~~

~~61-10149-486 p. 71~~

~~100-57453-278 p. 29, 43~~

~~121-23278-26 X 128, p. 153~~

~~100-11507-133~~

~~100-253014-1~~

~~100-203581-1825~~

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE

BY

3/88 SP-48/11/88

① 100-334795-138-1637

③ 100-86590-15-26 p 9

② 61-777-15-251-p 9

③ 100-326-34-36 p 9

④ 100-829-716 p 29+28

⑥ 100-10355-A

⑦ 100-334795-3

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED ON THIS ENVELOPE  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 7-13-00 BY SP4/2000

98

ENCLOSURE

100-334795-6

100-334795-6

U. S. Department of Justice

(MATERIAL MUST NOT BE REMOVED FROM OR ADDED TO THIS FILE)

FEDERAL BUREAU

of

INVESTIGATION

DO NOT  
DESTROY

FOIPA# 1072069

USE CARE IN HANDLING THIS FILE

Transfer-Call



161-HQ-4870-1

Serials 1---

161-HQ-4870

Sec. 1

1/23/67

Airtel

To: SACS, Washington Field - Enc. (5)  
Chicago - Enc.  
New York - Enc.  
Los Angeles - Enc.  
San Francisco - Enc.  
Legat Mexico - Enc.

From: Director, FBI

KATHERINE DUNHAM  
SPI  
BUDED: 2/2/67

b6  
b7C

White House has requested investigation of Dunham who is being considered for Presidential appointment, position involved not indicated. Born 1/22/09 Chicago, Illinois, and presently resides in New York City area where she is affiliated with Dunham School in New York City. Background data attached. See Who's Who for additional background.

Assign immediately to experienced and sufficient personnel. Results of this investigation must reach Bureau on or before deadline date.

SPIN.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/7/00 BY SPIN

1 - Foreign Liaison Unit (Route through for review)

NOTE: Request received from White House today.

Tolson  
DeLoach  
Mohr  
Wick  
Casper  
Callahan  
Conrad  
Felt  
Gale  
Rosen  
Sullivan  
Tavel  
Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Holmes  
Gandy

WHB:pmn  
(15)

MAILED 9 REC JAN 23 1967 COMM-FBI

EX 101

4870-  
JAN 24 1967

2 ENCLOSURE

381 WJC/16  
61 MAIL 2, 1967

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

Return to Mr. Burke Room 1254.

10  
THE WHITE HOUSE  
Washington

MEMORANDUM

Rcd  
1-20-67  
JW

TO : [redacted] FBI

FROM : Mildred Stegall

SUBJECT : FBI Investigation

January 19, 1967

b6  
b7C

Subject's Name DUNHAM, Katherine

Date of Birth January 22, 1909 Place of Birth Chicago, Ill.

Present Address Habitation Leclerc, Port-Au-Prince, Haiti

[redacted] has requested:

- Copy of Previous Report
- Name Check
- Full Field Investigation

The person named above is being considered for:

- White House staff position
- Presidential appointment
- Position with another Agency

airtel 1/23/67  
wfo  
cc  
say  
LA  
SF  
Legat, Mexico  
WHB/psm

ATTACHMENTS:

- SF 86 (in duplicate)
- SF 87, Fingerprint Card
- Biography

REMARKS:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/7/00 BY SP4 b/j/tgg

REPORT SHOULD BE DELIVERED BY FBI TO: MILDRED STEGALL

ENCLOSURE

161-4870-1

7 Xerax

BIOGRAPHIC DATA

DUNHAM, Katherine

Age 37 (Born January 22, 1909  
in Chicago, Illinois)

Home: Habitation Leclerc  
Port-Au-Prince, Haiti

Dunham School  
New York City

PRESENT POSITION

Dancer, Director, Producer and Author

EDUCATION

1930 Student, University of Chicago  
Special Field training for West Indies Research,  
Northwestern University  
1936-37 Julius Rosenwald Travel Fellowship to West Indies

FAMILY DATA

Married [redacted] with one daughter

b6  
b7C

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

1934 First major dance performance at the Chicago  
World's Fair  
1935-36 With Chicago Opera Company  
1938 Ballet L'Ag'ye for Federal Theatre  
1939 Supervisor, City Theatre Writer's Project on cult  
studies, Chicago  
1939-40 Dance director, Labor Staff, New York  
1940 Appeared in productions, including Cabin in the Sky,  
Carnival of Rhythm, Star Spangled Rhythm, Stormy  
Weather  
1942 Choreographer, Pardon My Sarong  
1943 Guest artist, San Francisco Symphony Orchestra  
1943-44 Toured Tropical Revue  
1945 Appeared with Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra;  
Established Katherine Dunham School of Cultural  
Arts, Inc., New York; organized Katherine  
Dunham Dance Company  
1946 Co-staged, choreographed and appeared in Carl's Song  
1946-47 Choreographer, Windy City  
1947 Starred in on Broadway, Bal Negre  
Motion picture, Casablanca with company in Mexico

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/10/05 BY SP-420a/HCG

ENCLOSURE

161-4870-1

1948

Toured across country with *Bei Negre* and *New Tropical Revue*

1948-49

Toured in various European and Asian countries

1961-now

Established school in Port-Au-Prince

1963-now

Established Dunham School, New York City

1962

Production of *Bamboche* on Broadway

1963

Choreographed *Aida*, Metropolitan Opera

1964

Staged dances for *Esco World Theatre*

ALSO

Decorated Haitian Legion of Honor and Merit

Member: American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers;

American Guild of Music Artists; American Guild of Variety

Artists; American Federation of Radio Artists; American Actors'

Equity Guild; Negro Artists' Guild

Author of several publications and books

Contributions to Esquire magazine under pseudonym of K. Dunn

b2  
b6  
b7C

4-22 (Rev. 1-22-60)  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Records Branch

1/23 1967

Name Searching Unit - Room 6527  
 Service Unit - Room 6524  
 Forward to File Review  
 Attention \_\_\_\_\_  
 Return to *Bishop - 125*

Supervisor Room Ext.

Type of References Requested:

Regular Request (Analytical Search)  
 All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)  
 Subversive References Only  
 Nonsubversive References Only  
 Main References Only

Type of Search Requested:

Restricted to Locality of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exact Name Only (On the Nose)  
 Buildup  Variations

Subject *Katherine Dunham*

Birthdate & Place \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Localities

R# *101* Date *1/23* Searcher Initials *117*

Prod. \_\_\_\_\_

FILE NUMBER SERIAL

|                                 |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>100-334795</i>               | <i>81 1/30/53</i> |
| <i>100-334795</i>               | <i>I</i>          |
| <i>100-334795-3</i>             | <i>3/18/53</i>    |
| <i>100-334795-5</i>             | <i>10/19/58</i>   |
| <i>62-5-16537</i>               | <i>19552</i>      |
| <i>Pratt (Katherine) (A/RA)</i> |                   |
| <i>SI</i>                       |                   |

*Dunham, K. (A/RA)*

*NO*

*follows*  
*name checks*  
*name work*  
*6/1/63*

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE *3/17/00* BY *SP4/leg*

*#912444*

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Records Branch

19

Name Searching Unit - Room 6527  
 Service Unit - Room 6524  
 Forward to File Review  
 Attention  
 Return to Barker 1254  
 Supervisor      Room      Ext.

## Type of References Requested:

Regular Request (Analytical Search)  
 All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)  
 Subversive References Only  
 Nonsubversive References Only  
 Main \_\_\_\_\_ References Only

## Type of Search Requested:

Restricted to Locality of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exact Name Only (On the Nose)  
 Buildup

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 3-7-00 BY SP4 Ray Hug

Subject Katherine DunhamBirthdate & Place 1/22/09Address Chicago

Dancer, Prod. num (initials)

Localities \_\_\_\_\_

R# 652 Date 1/21 Searcher Initials Bm

Prod. \_\_\_\_\_

|  | FILE NUMBER                    | SERIAL              |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------|
|  | <u>31-69318</u>                | <u>M4 R682</u>      |
|  | <u>31-693-3470</u>             |                     |
|  | <u>31-693-3470-334795</u>      | <u>(yan thau)</u>   |
|  | <u>31-693-3470-334795-1125</u> | <u>(yan thau)</u>   |
|  | <u>31-693-3470-334795-33um</u> | <u>8/18/55</u>      |
|  |                                | <u>-53um</u>        |
|  | <u>31-68496-21</u>             |                     |
|  |                                | <u>-39</u>          |
|  |                                | <u>-49</u>          |
|  |                                | <u>-74</u>          |
|  |                                | <u>-77</u>          |
|  |                                | <u>-80</u>          |
|  |                                | <u>-133</u>         |
|  | <u>31-693-915-2561</u>         | <u>JAN 8/6/1967</u> |
|  |                                | <u>-166</u>         |
|  |                                | <u>-233</u>         |
|  |                                | <u>-237</u>         |
|  |                                | <u>-240</u>         |
|  |                                | <u>-251</u>         |
|  | <u>31-693-915-2561</u>         | <u>NOV 1967</u>     |

2  
NUMEROUS REFERENCEb6  
b7C

## SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Katherine DunhamSupervisor Burke Room 1254R# 652 Date: 1/26 Searcher BmProd: 50 Initial: Bm

FILE NUMBER SERIAL

Katherine DunhamNP 39-915 2565XNE 61-777-9 9 274NP 61-777-37 -113NP 61-6728 -116XSI 61-10149 -467SI 61-10471 -517P5.29SI 61-10471 -536CP26NP 61-10471 -25NP 61-10471 -16537NP 61-10471 -19772NP 65-95433 -2NP 64-200-207 -413SI 64-200-221 -1349P7NP 64-3001 -1565NP 65-33604 -24NP 65-56402 -3272XNP 65-56402-1 -1097 <sup>Special file 1315</sup>SI 66-8603-134 -546SI 77-62238 -25SI 77-62238 -367SI 77-62238 -367

NUMEROUS REFERENCE

SEARCH SLIP

Burke 3  
1254Subj: Katherine DunhamSupervisor Burke Room 1254R# 654 Date 11/26 Searcher BurkeProd. CPD Date 11/26 Initial BurkeFILE NUMBER Home St Park Ave SERIAL 1-22-09NPI 97-781-190STI 100-3-4-3024NPI 100-3-21-25 I 282NPI 100-135-A✓ P.M. 9/5/43NPI 100-135-34-491NPI 100-135-47-A✓ Daily Worker 11/3/42✓ 8/24/42NPI 100-829-916-27,28STI (JAFC) 100-7061-115-145,181 I 57✓ 100-7061-115-145,181✓ 100-7063-115-145,181✓ 100-7063-115-145,181NPI 100-7494-38✓ 100-7660-2622 I 57 2682✓ 100-10355-A✓ 100-10772-22p5✓ 100-11587-264✓ 100-12049-19✓ 100-12138-54 I 57 89NPI 100-28126-A✓ 100-28126-ADaily Worker 11/25/48

4  
NUMEROUS REFERENCE

## SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Katherine DunhamSupervisor Burke Room 1254R# 630 Date 11/26 Searcher Initial BmProd: 229

## FILE NUMBER

## SERIAL

SI 100-37732-45PV 100-38425-43P 100-41195-32 dinner partyNP 100-61122-A Worker 11/20/43NP 100-63240-64 ep4NP 100-80590-15-26P 100-92004-A PM 9/16/43P 100-146864-210X1 239 SISI 100-154799-29P11NP 100-157464-32V 100-200713-46NP 100-202315-55402-8V 100-203581-2416, 275-3, SIV 100-283575NP 100-235432-10NP 100-24718-12P59

44

## NUMEROUS REFERENCE

## SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Katherine DunhamSupervisor Burke Room 1254R 1030 Date 10/10/68 Searcher BS Initial mProd. 101

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

Katherine DunhamNPI 100-249539-8NPI 100-292353-2NPI 100-331946-1NPI 100-333760-2NPI 100-334803-3NPI 100-337112-1NPI 100-337779-2NPI 100-338119-1NPI 100-338892-1NPI -275P/I 100-341902-2018P/I 100-343808-1P/I 100-350988-5NPI 100-352385-1493NPI 100-353031-3P/I 100-358144-3981S/I 100-367262-4P/I 100-369475-1P/I 100-370903-9NPI 100-384851-1S/I 100-418429-6NPI 100-431124-1NPI -3 21

## NUMEROUS REFERENCE

## SEARCH SLIP

Katherine Dunham  
 Supervisor Barber Room 1254  
1654 Searcher 031  
 Date 7/26 Initial B.I. 22-09

| FILE NUMBER                                      | SERIAL               |
|--|----------------------|
| <u>Katherine Dunham</u>                          |                      |
| <u>I 105-39762 - 6</u>                           |                      |
| <u>PI 105-113736 - 76 (100)</u>                  |                      |
| <u>Pf 109-12-233 - 63</u>                        |                      |
| <u>I 121-19541 - 22</u>                          |                      |
|  | <u>F 36</u>          |
| <u>I 121-20276 - 26 P26, 42, N1<br/>(SI) 43,</u> |                      |
| <u>I 121-23715 - 9 you have</u>                  |                      |
|  | <u>I 23 you have</u> |
|  | <u>I 25 you have</u> |
| <u>I 121-26766 - 21 you have</u>                 |                      |
| <u>PF 121-31296 (100) 13</u>                     |                      |
| <u>PT 138-14 - 122</u>                           |                      |
| <u>VI 138-1637 - 1 you have</u>                  |                      |
| <u>II 138-2065 - 3</u>                           |                      |
| <u>Katherine Dunham (var)</u>                    |                      |
| <u>VI 31-68496 - X1</u>                          |                      |
| <u>SE 61-777-15 - 243</u>                        |                      |
|  | <u>I 251</u>         |
| <u>VI 61-6728 - 484</u>                          |                      |
| <u>NI 65-56402 - 2850 P115</u>                   |                      |
| <u>PT 100-154799 - 38</u>                        |                      |
|  | <u>I 63 87</u>       |

## NUMEROUS REFERENCE

## SEARCH SLIP

Burke  
1254Subj: Katherine DunhamSupervisor Burke Room 1254R# 609 Date 11-16-61 Searcher BurkeProd. NY 0122-02 Origin, 226  
Dunham Production Arts  
FILE NUMBER 11-23715 SERIALKatherine Dunham (var)~~✓ 100-154799 - 74 P44.54~~~~✓ 121-23715 - 9~~Katherine ann (Bur)NR 63-3470Katherine Dunham Dancers~~✓ 121-26766 - 21~~Katherine Dunham School~~✓ 100-69266 - 157 P10~~Katherine Dunham School ofcultural Arts, Inc.~~✓ 100-138754 - 418 P18~~Katherine (var)~~✓ 138-1637 - 1~~K. Dunham~~✓ NR 87-32423~~Mrs. K. DunhamNR 63-3470Katherine Dunham~~✓ 121-1558 - 596 P301~~~~✓ 100-7061 - A Daily Worker~~12/3/48~~✓ 100-17139 - 42~~~~✓ 100-340922 - A 51715~~

## NUMEROUS REFERENCES

## SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Katherine Dunham  
 Supervisor Burke (B) Room 1254  
 R# 100 Date 1/26 Searcher Bm  
 Initial Bm  
 Prod. 1/26

| FILE NUMBER                       | SERIAL       |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| <u>Katherine Dunham</u>           |              |
| <u>NP 105-8467</u>                | - 8          |
| <u>NP 116-170681</u>              | - 4          |
| <u>Katherine May Dunham (var)</u> |              |
| <u>NR 116-70602</u>               |              |
| <u>Katherine (var)</u>            |              |
| <u>✓ E 100-334795</u>             | you have     |
| <u>✓ E 100-149163</u>             | - A 1/1/143  |
| <u>Katherine (Var)</u>            |              |
| <u>NR 31-82203</u>                |              |
| <u>✓ E 31-68496</u>               | - 58         |
| <u>✓ E</u>                        | - 63         |
| <u>✓ E 61-7582</u>                | - 1298 P1601 |
| <u>✓ E 61-10149</u>               | - 446X P8    |
| <u>SI A</u>                       | - 486 P71    |
| <u>SI E 1500000100-334795-5</u>   | - 536 5922   |
| <u>NP 64-45716</u>                | - 387        |
| <u>NP 65-44458</u>                | - 195 P10    |
| <u>NP 65-49213</u>                | - 129 P11    |
| <u>NP 100-3-23</u>                | - 458 P31    |
| <u>NP 100-135-47</u>              | - 22 P5      |
| <u>✓ E 100-11507</u>              | - 133 P21    |
| <u>✓ E 100-20604</u>              | - 17         |
| <u>NP 100-57453</u>               | - 278 P43    |

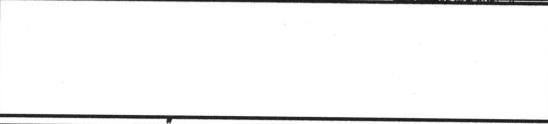
## NUMEROUS REFERENCE

## SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Katherine DunhamSupervisor Bugbee Room 1254B# 100 Date 1/26 Searcher Initial BmProd. 2

## FILE NUMBER

## SERIAL

Katherine (var)NP 100-203581 - 1825MM 100-253014 - 1SET 100-325498 - 6ATT 



Name Searching Unit - Room 6527  
 Service Unit - Room 6524  
 Forward to File Review  
 Attention \_\_\_\_\_  
 Return to Barber 1254  
 Supervisor Room Ext.

## Type of References Requested:

Regular Request (Analytical Search)  
 All References (Subversive & Nonsubversive)  
 Subversive References Only  
 Nonsubversive References Only  
 Main \_\_\_\_\_ References Only

## Type of Search Requested:

Restricted to Locality of \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exact Name Only (On the Nose)  
 Buildup  Variations

Subject Albert Dunham

Birthdate &amp; Place \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Localities/

R# 7 Date 1-27 Searcher Initials DP

Prod. \_\_\_\_\_

FILE NUMBER 1345 SERIAL 105-34674-3006 see  
3064,2929  
2931

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/1/03 BY SP-4/4

Albert E.  
ST

Albert Edward  
ST

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12/1/03 BY SP-4/4

TELETYPE UNIT  
JAN 27 1967  
ENCODED MESSAGE

FBI NEW YORK /10/

1153 AM URGENT 1-27-67 JLW

TO DIRECTOR CHICAGO LOS ANGELES AND SAN FRANCISCO  
FROM NEW YORK 161-2271 2P

Mr. Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Wick \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Felt \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Gale \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Holmes \_\_\_\_\_  
Miss Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

b6  
b7C

MR. CLEVELAND  
ROOM 1246

KATHERINE DUNHAM, AKA MRS. JOHN THOMAS PRATT, KAY DUNN, SPI, BUDED  
FEB. TWO, SIXTYSEVEN

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/7/00 BY SP/

REBUTEL JAN. TWENTYTHREE, LAST.

BUSINESS ASSOCIATES, NEW YORK CITY, ADVISED APPOINTEE BORN  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, JUNE TWENTYTWO, ZERO NINE.

HUSBANDS PARENTS BORN CANADA, DECEASED. APPONTEES

BROTHER, ALBERT DUNHAM, DECEASED.

ASSOCIATES ADVISED APPOINTEE MAINTAINED APARTMENT IN NEW YORK CITY AND  
KNOW OF NO OTHER CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES ADDRESSES. APPOINTEE  
CONSTANTLY ON WORLD TOURS WITH DUNHAM COMPANY DANCING TROOP, ALONG  
WITH HUSBAND. APPOINTEE PRESENTLY IN AFRICA AND MOROCCO.  
END PAGE ONE

161-4870-2  
NOT RECORDED

25 MAR 13 1967

6 typed 30  
cc'd 1 MAR 27 1967  
WNS/Spay  
in Europe

b6  
b7C

PAGE TWO

[REDACTED] APPONTEE MAINTAINS RESIDENCE PORT-AU-

PRINCE, HAITI.

[REDACTED] PRESENTLY ASSOCIATED WITH S. HUROK ARTISTS,

INC., LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.

ALL OFFICES CONDUCT APPROPRIATE AGENCY CHECKS. CHICAGO VERIFY  
APPOINTEE'S BIRTH. LOS ANGELES INTERVIEW ASSOCIATE [REDACTED]

END

MLT FBI WASH D C

2000 07 10 11 03

11 11 11 11 11

1/27/67  
FBI NEW YORK 1/21  
510PM URGENT 1/27/67 WMS

TO DIRECTOR CHICAGO AND WASHINGTON FIELD  
WASHINGTON FIELD VIA WASHINGTON  
FROM NEW YORK 161-2271 ,P, /1P

TELETYPE UNIT  
JAN 27 1967  
ENCODED MESSAGE

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/1/00 BY SPK/relay

KATHERINE DUNHAM SPI BUDED FEBRUARY TWO NEXT.

B  
Mr. Tolson  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Wick  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Tele. Room  
Miss Holmes  
Miss Gandy

MR. CLEVELAND  
ROOM 1246

REURAIRTEL TO WASHINGTON FIELD JANUARY TWENTY THREE LAST.

THEATRE GUILD NEW YORK CITY TODAY

ADVISED APPOINTEE FIRST BECAME INVOLVED IN THE THEATRE IN  
CHICAGO WITH THE "CUBE THEATRE". APPOINTEE DID CHOREOGRAPHY

WORK FOR [REDACTED], PH, IN CONNECTION WITH CHICAGO CIVIC  
BALLET AND CHICAGO OPERA. [REDACTED] SAID APPOINTEE WAS

INVOLVED WITH WPA THEARTRE WHERE SHE MET HER HUSBAND WHO WAS  
A DESIGNER. [REDACTED] SAID APPOINTEE EITHER IN

CONNECTION WITH A HAITIAN GOVERNMENT OF BY HER SELF SET UP AN  
ORPHANAGE IN HAITI. AFTER WORLD WAR II WORKED CLOSELY WITH HAITIAN  
GOVERNMENT.

b6  
b7C  
b7D

INFORMATION CONCERNING APPOINTEE'S CONNECTION WITH HAITIAN  
GOVERNMENT BEING FURNISHED TO BUREAU FOR INFORMATION.

CHICAGO INTERVIEW [REDACTED], PH,.

WASHINGTON FIELD VERIFY EMPLOYMENT BY WPA THEATRE.

SPIN.

END

RAK R RELAY  
301 MAR 27 1967  
FBI WASH DC  
TWO COPIES TO WFO

161-4870-3  
NOT RECORDED

25 MAR 13 1967

Sc

GP

1 - Mr. Burke

1/27/67

airtel

To: SACs, Washington Field  
Chicago  
New York  
San Francisco  
Los Angeles  
Detroit  
Baltimore  
Seattle  
Philadelphia

From: Director, FBI

KATHERINE DUNHAM  
aka Katherine Pratt  
Mrs. John Thomas Pratt  
SPECIAL INQUIRY  
BUDED: 2/2/67

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 2/17/00 BY SP4/PN/ing

ReBuairtel 1/23/67, no cc Detroit, Baltimore, Seattle,  
or Philadelphia.

MAILED 3  
COMM-FBI  
JAN 27 1967  
For information of Detroit, Baltimore, Seattle, and  
Philadelphia, White House has requested investigation of Dunham,  
famous Negro dancer and choreographer, who is being considered  
for Presidential appointment, position not stated. Born 1/22/09,  
Chicago, Illinois, and presently resides New York City area,  
where she is affiliated with Dunham School. See Who's Who for  
further background data.

Bufiles indicate that during 1940s and 1950s Dunham  
was a sponsor, was active in, or had dinners held in her honor  
by such cited organizations as Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Com-  
mittee; Civil Rights Congress; Philadelphia School of Social  
Science; California Labor School; American Youth for Democracy;

30  
WHB:jmb  
6 MAR 27 1967

161-4870-4  
NOT RECORDED

25 MAR 13 1967

MAIL ROOM  TELETYPE UNIT

Return to Mr. BURKE, Room 1254.

b6  
b7C

Airtel to Washington Field  
Re: KATHERINE DUNHAM

and the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship,  
Incorporated.

[redacted] wherein characterization of  
Dunham is included. Washington Field be particularly alert  
to information in CSC and HCUA files concerning Dunham. The  
CSC enclosure to Bureau letter which initiated investigation  
of Cohn contains information obtained from CSC files regarding  
a [redacted]

[redacted] According to CSC during investigation of  
[redacted] neighbors indicated the building for the  
most part was occupied by communists and a neighbor observed  
a communist flag, a picture of Stalin, and several plaques on  
the wall of [redacted] at the aforementioned  
address. [redacted] held a tea for Katherine Dunham at which time  
the Russian national anthem was sung.

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted] lived with Dunham  
in various areas, including Los Angeles and New York. Be  
certain thorough investigation is conducted in this matter.

All offices thoroughly review urfiles. Make  
necessary recontacts and handle in accordance with current  
Special Inquiry standards. Baltimore check DCII.

## TELETYPE UNIT

JAN 30 1967

ENCODED MESSAGE

~~217 PM URGENT 1-30-67 JEK~~

TO DIRECTOR AND NEW YORK (NEW YORK VIA WASHINGTON)  
FROM SAN FRANCISCO (161-1078)

|              |
|--------------|
| Mr. Tolson   |
| Mr. DeLoach  |
| Mr. Mohr     |
| Mr. Wick     |
| Mr. Casper   |
| Mr. Callahan |
| Mr. Conrad   |
| Mr. Felt     |
| Mr. Gale     |
| Mr. Rosen    |
| Mr. Sullivan |
| Mr. Tavel    |
| Mr. Trotter  |
| Tele. Room   |
| Miss Holmes  |
| Miss Gandy   |

MR. CLEVELAND  
ROOM 1246

KATHERINE CUNHAM, SPI, BUDED: TWO TWO NEXT.

RE. BUREAU AIRTEL TO WFO, DATED ONE TWENTY-THREE LAST.

APPOINTEE FORMERLY EMPLOYED BY   NEW

b6  
b7c

YORK CITY. SHE ALLEGEDLY LEFT HIM AFTER A DISAGREEMENT.

NEW-YORK HANDLE.

AM COPY TO THE BUREAU.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 9/7/00 BY SP4/bja

END

QCC '3

FJTLV

MCS : FBI : WASH : DC

161-4870-5

~~NOT RECORDED~~  
25 MAR 18 1967

fee destroyed  
6 1 MAR 27 1967

700-28-2 5210-22

**REFUSED TO**

Ny

F B I

Date: 1/30/67

Transmit the following in

(Type in plaintext or code)

TELETYPE

Via

(Priority)

b6  
b7C

(AIRMAIL)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI AND SAC, NEW YORK

FROM: SAC, SAN FRANCISCO (161-1078)

KATHERINE DUNHAM, SPI, BUDED: TWO TWO NEXT.

RE BUREAU AIRTEL TO WFO, DATED ONE TWENTY-THREE LAST.

APPOINTEE FORMERLY EMPLOYED BY [REDACTED] NEW YORK  
CITY. SHE ALLEGEDLY LEFT HIM AFTER A DISAGREEMENT.

NEW YORK HANDLE.

AM COPY TO THE BUREAU.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 3/7/00 BY SP4/sg/leg

161-4870-6

NOT RECORDED

1 JAN 31 1967

1 - Bureau  
1 - San Francisco  
DWK/cab  
(2)

Approved:

61 MAR 27 1967

Sent

M

Spec Agent

Special Agent in Charge

## FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

|   |                            |                              |   |
|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| REPORTING OFFICE<br>SAN FRANCISCO   | OFFICE OF ORIGIN<br>BUREAU | DATE<br>1/31/67              | INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD<br>1/24/67 - 1/31/67 |
| TITLE OF CASE<br>KATHERINE DUNHAM, aka<br>Katherine Pratt<br>Mrs. John Thomas Pratt |                            | REPORT MADE BY<br>[Redacted] | TYPED BY<br>cab                           |
| CHARACTER OF CASE   |                            |                              |   |
| SPECIAL INQUIRY   |                            |                              |   |

REFERENCES: Bureau airtel to WFO, 1/27/67.  
New York teletype to Bureau, 1/27/67.  
Bureau airtel to WFO, 1/23/67.  
San Francisco teletype to Bureau, 1/30/67.

b2

b6

b7C

b7D

## INFORMANTS

## Identity

|            |
|------------|
| [Redacted] |
|------------|

- RUC -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 1/17/00 BY [Signature]

File Where Located

100-0-1497

(Characterization of  
[Redacted])(Characterization of  
[Redacted])Case has been: Pending over one year  Yes  No; Pending prosecution over six months  Yes  NoAPPROVED  
[Signature]SPECIAL AGENT  
IN CHARGE

COPIES MADE:

1 - Bureau (AMSD) (RM)  
1 - San Francisco (161-1078)

DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW

161-4870-7

NOT RECORDED

FEB 2 1967

2600 41 MORLEY ST FEB 2 1967

16-1078

16-1078

16-1078

16-1078

16-1078

16-1078

16-1078

16-1078

16-1078

16-1078

16-1078

16-1078

16-1078

16-1078

16-1078

16-1078

16-1078

16-1078

16-1078

16-1078

16-1078

|   |               |  |  |
|---|---------------|--|--|
| Dissemination Record of Attached Report |               |  |  |
| Agency                                  | 501           |  |  |
| Request Recd.                           | 501           |  |  |
| Date Fwd.                               | 61 MAR 2 1967 |  |  |
| How Fwd.                                |               |  |  |
| By                                      |               |  |  |

NOTATIONS

Spec. Ind

SF 161-1078  
DWK/cab

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

Identity

[Redacted]

File Where Located

61-288-84

100-124-1

(Characterization of

[Redacted]  
100-4405-82

Other confidential informants referred to are:

[Redacted] contacted by SA [Redacted] on  
January 31, 1967.

[Redacted] contacted on January 31, 1967.

[Redacted]

ADMINISTRATIVE

This report is classified confidential as information from [Redacted] through [Redacted] if disclosed, could reasonably result in identification of informants and techniques of continuing value to the Bureau.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Copy to:

Report of:

Date:

January 31, 1967

Office: San Francisco

Field Office File #:

161-1078

Bureau File #:

Title:

KATHERINE DUNHAM

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

Character:

SPECIAL INQUIRY

Synopsis:

KATHERINE DUNHAM resided at home of [redacted] while in San Francisco in 1943. [redacted] was CP member in 1943 according to informants. Appointee attended functions of American Russian Institute and JAFRC in 1944. She received publicity in "People's World", a west coast Communist newspaper in 1941, 1942, and 1946. Described as outstanding entertainer, specializing in the African dance. One former employer recommended her as a dancer but would not recommend her for a position of trust with U. S. Government because of former association with JAFRC and American Russian Institute. No credit or police record in San Francisco.

- RUC -

DECLASSIFIED BY SP-4/bja/tog  
ON 2/7/00DETAILS:

[redacted] who is unavailable for recontact, stated on September 17, 1942, that [redacted] had advised that a couple of the DUNHAM dancers were real "Reds" and that KATHERINE DUNHAM was sympathetic.

[redacted] advised in 1942 that [redacted] held regular meetings of the Communist Party at her home.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

SF 161-1078  
DWK/cab

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

[redacted]  
from March through June, 1942, [redacted] advised in 1945 that [redacted] was a member of the Columbus Professional Club of the Communist Party (CP) in San Francisco and that CP meetings were held at her residence [redacted] in February and March, 1945. On January 25, 1947, [redacted] stated that [redacted] attended a meeting of the [redacted] Branch of the CP and that [redacted] was one of the members expelled for security reasons.

A check of the records at the United States Probation Office, San Francisco, in 1954, showed that [redacted]

[redacted] advised on December 2, 1943, that the advanced class for CP functionaries was to be held at [redacted] home on December 15, 1943.

In March, 1944, [redacted] who is unavailable for recontact, advised that the Soviet Consulate in San Francisco was attending to the invitations being issued for the reception being held under the auspices of the American Russian Institute in honor of KATHERINE DUNHAM, the prominent dancer.

The American Russian Institute has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

1  
SF 161-1078  
RML/cab

b6  
b7C  
b7D

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted]

AT KENTFIELD, CALIFORNIA

On January 30, 1967, [redacted] advised that she first became acquainted with KATHERINE DUNHAM about 1942. [redacted] recalled that KATHERINE DUNHAM was brought to San Francisco for a dancing performance by DAN LONDON, Manager of the St. Francis Hotel. She stated that this performance was booked at the San Francisco Legion of Honor and was perhaps for charity. She stated that there was a problem with regard to housing for KATHERINE DUNHAM and the latter stayed at her residence for a few days. Subsequent to this, KATHERINE DUNHAM was booked for performances at the Mark Hopkins Hotel. [redacted] stated that subsequent to 1942, she has seen KATHERINE DUNHAM on a number of occasions, primarily during the latter's trips to the San Francisco area. KATHERINE DUNHAM has stayed at the [redacted] residence on two or three occasions. She considers KATHERINE DUNHAM to be a person of excellent character and reputation and one of wide cultural and educational background. She stated that she could recommend her for a position of trust and responsibility with the United States Government.

The following investigation was conducted by SA [redacted]

AT SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

SF 161-1078  
DWK/cab

b2  
b6  
b7C  
b7D

[redacted] advised in March, 1944, that [redacted] had stated that KATHERINE DUNHAM, noted dancer, had expressed her willingness to have her troupe put on a performance for the benefit of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee (JAFRC).

The JAFRC has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States as coming within the purview of Executive Order 10450.

In November, 1945, [redacted] advised that [redacted] joined the CP about 1936 and since that time had been closely associated with various Communist and Russian groups in the United States. [redacted] stated that [redacted] was a woman of considerable means and had been a heavy contributor to Communist front groups.

In April, 1944, [redacted] who is unavailable for re-contact, stated that one DUNHAM, not otherwise identified, was said to have given a check for \$1,000 for the California Labor School.

The California Labor School has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The November 8, 1941 issue of the "People's World", a west coast Communist newspaper, carried an article concerning KATHERINE DUNHAM, the famous dancer. This article stated that she was the recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship, had a doctor's degree in anthropology and had endorsed the Festus Coleman Committee efforts.

The Festus Coleman Committee was cited as a Communist front by the California Senate Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities, Report, 1948, page 172.

The "San Francisco Chronicle" for July 18, 1942, carried an article in Herb Caen's column that KATHERINE DUNHAM, not otherwise identified, was to dance at an affair by the JAFRC at the Mural Room of the St. Francis Hotel, San Francisco.